Need for sophisticated weapons to policemen

693. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the news-item titled "Guns that refuse to fire at the right time" appearing in the Hindustan Times of 23rd January, 2002;

(b) whether it is true that the assailants went unchecked and unhindered as the rifles, which policemen were having did not fire and they had nothing to retaliate;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps are being taken by Government to provide the policemen with sophisticated and upto date weapons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. As reported by the Government of West Bengal, the police forces at the time of attack by terrorists were equipped with .303 rifles, .38 revolvers, lathis & tear gas. The incident occured at the changeover time when the police contingent on duty was being replaced by a new contingent.

(d) On the request of the State Government, sophisticated weapons, *viz.* 7.62 mm SLRs and 5.56 mm INSAS rifles have been allotted to West Bengal Police as a part of the modernisation of the State Police.

Madarsas in West Bengal

694. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) The number of Madarsas in the districts of West Bengal, bordering Bangladesh;

(b) The number of Madarsas and Masjids which are registered and the number of unregistered Madarsas;

(c) whether these Madarsas received funds from foreign countries; and

(d) if so, the names of countries sending funds to these Madarsas with funds received during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) The number of Madarsas in the districts of West Bengal bordering Bangladesh is estimated to be more than 1000. The regulation of construction of public religious buildings in West Bengal is covered under the provisions of The West Bengal, Religious Buildings and Places Act, 1985. This is a State Government legislation and the Central Government does not maintain records regarding registration of Madarsas in the State.

(c) and (d) Under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976, various non-governmental organizations (including Madarsas) are permitted to receive foreign contribution from foreign sources for bonafide activities in cultural, economic, education, social or religious fields. No separate records about Madarsas are being compiled.

Proposals of Delhi Police for security purposes

695. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact Delhi Police have sent a number of proposals relating to manpower and equipment for security purposes;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the period of pendency of these proposals; and

(c) what are the reasons for non-clearance of the proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) In order to make a rational and comprehensive assessment of the extent to which the strength of Delhi Police (including its Security Unit) needs to be augmented, an indepth study has been made by the Bureau of Police Research and Development. The recommendations made in the Study Report are in the process of being finalized.

Review of airports security after the terrorists attack on the US

696. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after the recent attacks in US, the security measures at airports acorss the country have been revised and full-fledged report submitted to the Centre;